

Appl. No. 10/650,055
Amdt. dated 6/6/05
Reply to Office action of 2/9/05

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (withdrawn) A method for fabricating a storage capacitor having a vertical structure with respect to a main surface of a substrate, the method which comprises:

forming a lower, metallic capacitor electrode, a storage dielectric and an upper capacitor electrode in or on the main surface of the substrate; and

performing the step of forming the lower, metallic capacitor electrode in a self-aligned manner on a silicon base material by producing uncovered silicon regions at locations where the lower capacitor electrode will be formed, and then selectively depositing metal silicide from a vapor phase on the uncovered silicon regions.

2. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of producing the uncovered silicon regions includes applying a covering material to the silicon base material.

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3. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 2, which further comprises selecting the covering material from a group consisting of silicon nitride, silicon dioxide, and a combination silicon nitride and silicon dioxide.

4. (withdrawn) A method for fabricating a memory cell, which comprises:

etching a trench into a main surface of a silicon substrate;

performing the method for fabricating the storage capacitor according to claim 2 such that the storage capacitor is at least partially configured in the trench and the lower metallic capacitor electrode adjoins a wall of the trench;

forming a selection transistor having a source electrode, a drain electrode, a conductive channel and a gate electrode; and

electrically conductively connecting the upper capacitor electrode of the storage capacitor to the source electrode or the drain electrode of the selection transistor.

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5. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 4, wherein the silicon substrate is silicon substrate configured on an insulator.

6. (withdrawn) A method for fabricating a trench capacitor, which comprises:

etching a trench into a main surface of a semiconductor substrate; and

performing the method for fabricating the storage capacitor according to claim 1 such that the storage capacitor is at least partially configured in the trench and the lower, metallic capacitor electrode adjoins a wall of the trench.

7. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 1, which further comprises using a metal selected from a group consisting of tungsten, titanium, molybdenum, tantalum, cobalt, nickel, niobium, platinum, palladium and rare earths to form the metal silicide.

8. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 1, which further comprises after performing the step of producing the uncovered silicon regions, performing a step for increasing a surface area of the uncovered silicon regions.

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9. (withdrawn) A method for fabricating a stacked capacitor, which comprises:

applying a pattern of a polysilicon layer cell to a non-silicon material;

performing the method for fabricating the storage capacitor according to claim 1; and

selecting the polysilicon layer for use as an electrically conductive connecting structure between the lower, metallic capacitor electrode and a source electrode or a drain electrode of a selection transistor of a DRAM memory cell.

10. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of producing the uncovered silicon regions includes applying a pattern of a silicon layer or a polysilicon layer to a non-silicon material.

11. (withdrawn) A method for fabricating a memory cell, which comprises:

forming a selection transistor having a source electrode, a drain electrode, a conductive channel and a gate electrode on a main surface of a semiconductor substrate; and

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performing the method according to claim 8 such that the lower, metallic capacitor electrode is formed on a surface of an electrically conductive connecting structure made from polysilicon and connecting the lower, metallic capacitor electrode to the source electrode or the drain electrode of the selection transistor.

12. (currently amended) A method for fabricating a trench capacitor, which comprises the following sequential order of steps:

etching a trench into a main surface of a silicon substrate;

producing covered silicon regions by applying a covering material to regions of the trench on which a lower, metallic capacitor electrode should not be formed;

forming the lower, metallic capacitor electrode in a self-aligned manner by selectively forming a metal silicide on uncovered silicon regions such that the capacitor is at least partially configured in the trench and the lower, metallic capacitor electrode adjoins a wall of the trench; and

after forming the lower, metallic capacitor electrode, providing a storage dielectric on the lower, metallic

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capacitor electrode and providing an upper capacitor electrode
on the storage dielectric.

13. (original) The method according to claim 12, which further comprises selecting the covering material from a group consisting of silicon nitride, silicon dioxide, and a combination of silicon nitride and silicon dioxide.

14. (withdrawn) A method for fabricating a memory cell, which comprises:

performing the method for fabricating the trench capacitor according to claim 12;

forming a selection transistor having a source electrode, a drain electrode, a conductive channel and a gate electrode; and

electrically conductively connecting the upper capacitor electrode to the source electrode or the drain electrode the selection transistor.

15. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 14, wherein the silicon substrate is a silicon substrate configured on an insulator.

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16. (original) The method according to claim 12, wherein the step of selectively forming the metal silicide on the uncovered silicon regions includes:

depositing a metal being suitable for forming a metal-silicon compound with uncovered silicon in a subsequent heat treatment step;

performing a heat treatment at a predetermined temperature in a predetermined atmosphere; and

selectively removing the metal that was not converted into silicide.

17. (currently amended) The method according to claim 16 44, wherein the heat treatment step is carried out at a temperature of 600 to 1000°C in a nitrogen atmosphere.

18. (previously presented) The method according to claim 16, wherein the heat treatment step is performed for a duration such that only a part of the metal facing the uncovered silicon forms a metal-silicon compound.

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19. (previously presented) The method according to claim 12, which further comprises using a metal selected from a group consisting of tungsten, titanium, molybdenum, tantalum, cobalt, nickel, niobium, platinum, palladium and rare earths to form the metal silicide, performing a heat treatment step at a temperature of 600 to 1000°C in a nitrogen atmosphere for a duration such that only a part of a metal facing an uncovered silicon forms a metal-silicon compound, and selectively depositing metal silicide for a vapor phase on uncovered silicon regions at locations where a lower capacitor electrode will be formed.